



Partnering Now For The Future Forum

Day One – Engagement Session Outcomes

An important aspect of the Partnering NOW for the Future forum was creating the opportunity for delegates to prioritise the impacts facing resource communities and identify solutions for the future. Following is a brief description of the engagement session process, a list of the key priorities and outcomes from group discussions.

On arrival at the forum on 29th September 2010, each delegate received a questionnaire asking them to list the key challenges and opportunities for the Bowen Basin region. Following is the list of challenges and opportunities from the questionnaires compiled during the lunch break.

	Challenges	Opportunities
Social and Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Affordable Housing FIFO/ DIDO Workforce Community Cohesiveness Healthcare 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FIFO/ DIDO Workforce Strategic Planning
Regional and Local Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic Planning Managing Growth Affordable Housing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic Planning Improved Engagement Partnerships
Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roads Funding Pressure from Growth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding Strategic Planning
Land Use, Agriculture and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protection of Agricultural Land 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic Planning

Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mine Rehabilitation • Environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnerships
Business, Economy and Employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attracting Staff & Skills Shortage • Keep Money Local • FIFO • Cost of Living 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased Business Opportunities • Diversification • Training
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future of Mining • Attracting Staff • Funding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Varied

The afternoon engagement session was led by Dr Ricki Jeffery and Phillip Casey who were supported by a team of ten facilitators. The list of challenges and opportunities were assessed and prioritised then presented back to delegates as topics for the engagement session. The session consisted of two rounds of facilitated group discussions with the first round focused on issues and the second round focused solutions. In world café style, the delegates had the opportunity to join three different discussion groups at each round explore different topics.

Further analysis of the questionnaires and discussion group transcripts were completed following the forum with nine topics identified and listed below in order of priority. The topics were selected from the most frequently nominated challenges or opportunities on the questionnaires. The dot-points are a combination of the corresponding issues and solutions drawn from the discussion group transcripts.

Affordable Housing

- Affordability and availability
- Need a mix of supply
 - Choice - such as family, single etc
 - Shortage of crisis and assisted
- Planning for land availability
- Challenge for local businesses to subsidise housing
- Affordable accommodation strategies
 - Rental a percentage of earnings
 - Private and public investment
 - Tax incentives for people to get involved
 - Major employers encouraged to assist with provision of different levels of accommodation

Attracting Staff & Skills Shortage

- Attraction and retention
- Skills shortage

- Training local youth – grow your own
- Promotion of communities
 - Need to invest in communities to attract people
 - Better information to inform potential staff of the benefits of coming to a regional/ rural area
- Difficult for non-mining employers – opportunity greater at mines
 - Competing salaries – disparity
- Provision of accommodation for staff

FIFO/ DIDO Workforce

- Not included when budgeting/ planning/ funding for infrastructure and services
 - Not accounted for with demand on roads, sewerage etc - impact on rate payers
- Impact of FIFO/ DIDO (villages) on social fabric
- Encourage FIFO to buy local
- Encourage FIFO to become involved in the community
- Employ more locals to decrease need for FIFO
 - Train local cleanskins
 - Start in schools
- Missing out on FIFO partner skills

Funding

- Government not returning adequate funding back to the community from mining taxes
 - Modelling for distribution of royalties – how does it go back to communities
- Access to State and Federal funding programs
- Lobby jointly for funding
- Lack of previously available and sustainable state funding to rebuild infrastructure
- Lack of opportunity for public/ private investment
- Resource companies contributing

Managing Growth

- Growth outstripping existing infrastructure
- Capitalise on growth
- Need “regulating” – number of mine developments to supply of services
- What do we need to make the community liveable – before the mine gets built
- Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
 - Proponent to provide funds for local Council to investigate impacts, especially cumulative effects
 - Flags possible implications and planning stages
 - Creates formal communication channel for neighbouring Councils to discuss impacts
 - Proponents engage neighbouring Councils together in planning stage

- Compliance with EIS process - cumulative impacts of health, safety and basic services
- Increased EP Act Monitoring ie dust, noise, vibrations
- Social Impact Management plans
- Need for professional assistance to landholders, community and local businesses to respond to EIS etc
- Social Infrastructure
 - Expand/ grow essential support services to support people in their new community
 - Youth and aged facilities
 - Child care
- Infrastructure
 - Maintenance and replacement costs
 - Renewal of infrastructure a burden for small rate base
 - Don't build without maintenance plan
 - Plan for future needs
- Economic Development
 - Promoting region
 - Liveability
 - Investment attraction for complimentary businesses
 - Local business to maximise on local resource growth
 - Buy Local strategy
 - Encourage diversification of industry business beyond mining
- Beyond mining
 - Build camps in a way that can be used as affordable housing later
 - The 'scars' left behind eg pipeline is no longer used
 - Community trust fund established

Strategic Planning

- Need forward planning – proactive not reactive
- Look at big picture
- Service planning that matches community need
- Extra capacity not built into projects
- Work together as three Councils
- Three levels of government working together in partnerships with industry and community
- Integrating plans between levels of government
- Regional planning extended to 50 year vision (end of mining)
- Community Plans
 - More 'subplans' components in community plan, asset management plans
 - Opportunity for communities and Council to voice their utopia
- Need for more community consultation and engagement

- Timeliness of engagement that provides genuine opportunity to influence project
- Know what communities aspire to
- Communication
- Recognising and valuing the input
- Engaging the disengaged
- Be mindful of over consultation
- Department top audit of what existing plans are in process eg WHAM, CQ A New Millennium
- Improved sharing/ public access of research, regional data and information

Healthcare

- Staffing – Doctors, Nurses & Allied Health
 - Attraction & retention strategies
 - Scholarships, rotation, tax incentives, pay HECS fees, overseas trained doctors
 - Need for appropriate coverage eg annual leave
 - Huge workloads - burn out
 - Skills diversification – professional development and training
 - Lack of accommodation
- Patient transport
 - Problems with emergency transport of patients
 - Promotion of patient travel subsidy scheme and angel flights
 - Lack of public transport to access services
- Queensland Health boundaries restrict services to meet needs
- Improve consistency of remuneration across health districts
- Plan for upgrade/ new health infrastructure – clinic facilities
- Need different models of service delivery
- Better use of/ more funding for tele-health and the facilities for tele-health
- More support for mental health due to higher incidence in mining communities

Transport

- Roads
 - Condition and maintenance
 - Capacity to take increased traffic
 - Fatigue – safety – ignoring traffic rules
 - Capacity to fund
- Rail
 - Not used to full extent
 - Facilities used to transport produce and livestock
 - Backfill solution – fuel, grain, explosives
 - Transport on road that should be on rail

- Public transport
 - Access to essential services (for lower – income)
 - Access between towns
 - Get traffic off roads
 - Alternative use for mine transport/ coaches and HACC buses
- Rationalisation of existing infrastructure eg rail/ roads
- Encourage connection to all areas eg increase airport routes

Agriculture

- Protection of strategic cropping and grazing land
 - Conflicting policies by State Government ie protect good quality agricultural land vs mining land & \$\$ return
 - Social impact of land use change
- Review and upgrade of mapping process
 - Mining companies have some of the data needed
 - Data in central hub to be accessed (eg CSIRO)
- Managing mining impacts on underground and surface water
 - Pollution and depletion of aquifer
 - Independent monitoring of downstream impacts
- Ensure land is reinstated not just rehabilitated
 - Reinstatement planned as collaborative process with landholders
 - How can we make use of the holes?
- Improved communications and partnerships between mining companies, landowners, government and community
- More support needed ie research officers, extension officers, advocates
- Plan for climate change and impacts on agricultural and mining practices

For full transcripts of the engagement please contact Rebecca Hall rhall@chrc.qld.gov.au